

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Draft Minutes



NPA:
(choose one)

Wards
1 & 8

Wards
2 & 3

Wards
4 & 7

Ward
5

Ward
6

Date of Assembly: 10/28/2020

Start Time: (Commence): 7:00 PM

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8028715104>

Finish Time: (Adjourn): 9:00 PM

Note taker: Liam Daugherty

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Ward 4: Jeff Clark, Alex Farrell, Eric Corbman, Jenna O'Donnell

Ward 7: Jeff Comstock, Matt Hurlburt

Discussion Topics

- **7:00-7:10** - Ground Rules, Introductions and Announcements
Notice: Preview of November/December Schedule
- **7:10-8:10** - Special Update: BHS & BTC Status
- **8:10-8:30** - Office of Police Transformation Update
- **8:30-9:00** - Concept Designs for Ethan Allen Pkwy & North Ave Intersection Project Presentation w/ Q&A

Actions Taken / Decisions Made

- *Immediately following Agenda Item*
- *Generally includes: electing a new steering committee member, voting as a body to send a formal communication to the City, decisions to spend money.*

Attendees:

Jeff Clark	Robert Hooper	Jeff Comstock	Eric Corbman
Jenna O'Donnell	Kendra Sowers	Sarah Carpenter	Sal Millichamp
Carol Ode	Monica Ivancic	Matt Hurlburt	Olivia Milens
TJ Jemison	Tom Flanagan	Philip Peterson	Kyle Dodson
Nicole Losch			

Agenda Items and Actions:

- I. **7:00-7:10** - Ground Rules, Introductions and Announcements Notice: Preview of November/December Schedule
 - a. City
 - i. Sarah: Discusses City Hall Park opening, Champlain Inn opening, the usage of fire pits, the new ambulance staff and ambulance at the fire station, and the legal mediation with City Place. Also discusses the work happening around the police department.
 1. Carol: Adds that there is a domestic terrorism update happening the 29th of October.
 2. Bob: Asks about the current schematic for the City Place building, and what the calls for the ambulance are for in the New North End. Sarah clarifies what the current schematic and design looks like. Suggests having the builders come and

present the design. Also talks about the volume of calls coming from the inner city, rather than from the surrounding area.

3. Jeff Comstock: Asks Sarah to clarify which quarter (fiscal or yearly) the ambulance is related to. Sarah answers the third quarter of the fiscal year, January, February, and March of 2021 is when the ambulance staff will be trained, and will be ready by the 4th quarter. The tax increases will be delayed to the next fiscal year as well, July 1st, 2021.
4. Matt Hurlburt: Inquires about why Sarah is supporting the just cause eviction bill. Sarah responds with her experience at Cathedral square and encourages people to look at the CDNR website. Also states that people should be given a reason to leave, and in places where it's been implemented it hasn't impacted the real estate market. Also clarifies that this will be a long process as the charter change is quite broad. A discussion ensues about the pros and cons of just-cause eviction.

- ii. Ali: Discusses voting, the lack of a ballot box in the New North End, the cones on the bike lane, the process regarding the just cause eviction vote.

b. School

- i. Monika: Discusses the updates on BTC and BHS, the nature of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), their use in school's construction, the levels allowed in schools (particularly in Vermont schools), possible plans for remediation at BHS, locations for in person instruction for BTC, and the need for in-person instruction for BHS students. Also discusses concerns brought up by residents regarding thoughts from the community around the levels set by the Vermont Department of Health. Shows options for in-person learning for BHS students (learn at BHS while remediation occurs, move to an alternate location while remediation occurs, or move to an alternate location while a new high school is built)
- ii. Kendra: Says that there is a survey around this decision that the entire community can participate in. Discusses contaminants in BTC, the programs available at BTC and where they're housed.
- iii. Tom Flanagan: Discusses the reasoning behind closing the schools, and options being considered for temporary housing of these students while the pandemic and PCB issues are being addressed. Also mentions talks with UVM for in-person schooling.
 1. Ali: Asks about how to treat PCB, and where students will go during construction.
 - a. Tom: Discusses the need to understand the soil contamination of PCBs to be able to treat it.
 2. Jeff Comstock: Inquires about using other facilities (middle and elementary) during the second half of the day rather than the beginning.
 - a. Tom: Discusses the difficulty regarding the logistics of rescheduling and moving things around.
 3. Mark Barlow: Has a question about the possibility of any more bonds, and reaching capacity like the South Burlington district.
 - a. Tom: Discusses the overburdening of tax payers, the need for funding help to push these projects forward (like construction aid), and the effects of the weighted funding formula.

II. **7:10-8:10** - Special Update: BHS & BTC Status – Martine Gulick, Kendra Sowers, and Monica Ivancic, presentation with Q&A

- a. Monica: Discusses the updates on BTC and BHS, the nature of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), their use in school's construction, the levels allowed in schools (particularly in Vermont schools), possible plans for remediation at BHS, locations for in person instruction for BTC, and the need for in-person instruction for BHS students. Also discusses concerns brought up by residents regarding thoughts from the community around the levels set by the Vermont Department of Health. Shows options for in-person learning for BHS students (learn at BHS

while remediation occurs, move to an alternate location while remediation occurs, or move to an alternate location while a new high school is built)

- b. Kendra: Says that there is a survey around this decision that the entire community can participate in. Discusses contaminants in BTC, the programs available at BTC and where they're housed.
- c. Tom Flanagan: Discusses the reasoning behind closing the schools, and options being considered for temporary housing of these students while the pandemic and PCB issues are being addressed. Also mentions talks with UVM for in-person schooling.
 - i. Ali: Asks about how to treat PCB, and where students will go during construction.
 - 1. Tom: Discusses the need to understand the soil contamination of PCBs to be able to treat it.
 - ii. Jeff Comstock: Inquires about using other facilities (middle and elementary) during the second half of the day rather than the beginning.
 - 1. Tom: Discusses the difficulty regarding the logistics of rescheduling and moving things around.
 - iii. Mark Barlow: Has a question about the possibility of any more bonds, and reaching capacity like the South Burlington district.
 - 1. Tom: Discusses the overburdening of tax payers, the need for funding help to push these projects forward (like construction aid), and the effects of the weighted funding formula.

III. **8:10-8:30** - Office of Police Transformation Update – Kyle Dodson, Director

- a. Discusses several possible structural changes such as citizen led commissions, body camera footage policies, a request for proposal for an assessment of BPD by an outside firm, the results of staffing from attrition, a reduced budget, more staff for social work, and the policies surrounding use of force. Also talks about the problem of mistrust between the police and the community (especially the BIPOC community), and turning that mistrust around through dialogue and communication. Discusses a possible Truth and Reconciliation process to help remediate the wounds of systemic racism.
 - i. Jeff Clark: Asks about the duration of Kyle's position. It will be 6 months.
 - ii. General conversation regarding police reform and thanks ensues between Kyle and the participants.

IV. **8:30-9:00** - Concept Designs for Ethan Allen Pkwy & North Ave Intersection Project Presentation w/ Q&A. Dept. of Public Works – Phillip Peterson, Associate Engineer & Nicole Losch, Senior Transportation Planner

- a. Phillip: Discusses the existing conditions and pitfalls of the current intersection, along with the goals of this particular project (various traffic and safety improvements).
 - i. 1st Concept: Simplifies the intersection to 4 points instead of 5, and reducing the length of pedestrian crosswalks.
 - ii. 2nd Concept: 2 iterations of roundabouts – will cost quite a bit.
 - iii. Makes it clear the improvements are generally for pedestrian safety, not vehicular safety.
- b. Q&A
 - i. Bob: Asks about the responsibility of the Little Eagle Bay entry point.
 - 1. Nicole answers that the best option would most likely be to integrate the driveway into the signal.
 - ii. Monica: Inquires about the changes to Ethan Allen Parkway for crosswalk safety.
 - 1. Phillip: Thanks Monica for the input, and mentions that any safety concerns will be evaluated during construction.
 - iii. Matt: Raises concerns over the roundabout concept, and expresses support for a right-hand turn lane and some new lighting.

- iv. Jeff Clark: Asks about the inclusion of the intersections further along the road.
 - 1. Nicole: Answers with a limitation of funding to tackle all the intersections at once, but they are being considered for future evaluations.
- v. Chip: Asks what effect will increased traffic flow and efficiency will have on 127 going south.
 - 1. Nicole: Do not have that level of detail yet.
- vi. Sarah: Mentions the Lakewood community to be taken into consideration, and raises concerns over the price tag of the roundabout.
- vii. Carol: Mentions the difficulty of bicycles at the intersection.
- viii. TJ: Expresses his support for roundabouts.
- ix. Jeff Clark: Asks about the re-paving of North Ave.
 - 1. Nicole responds it should be re-paved next year.

9:00 Adjourn